



CONNECTICUT AFL-CIO

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Testimony of Lori Pelletier, Secretary-Treasurer of the
Connecticut AFLCIO
before the Government Administration and Elections Committee
March 25, 2013

Spoken 3/25/13

Senator Musto and Representative Jutila and members of the committee, I am Lori Pelletier and I serve as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Connecticut AFLCIO and am here to testify on behalf of our affiliated local unions and the 200,000 union men and women they represent.

S.B. No. 4 (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING EARLY VOTING. (GAE) we support this proposed bill. Just as our world continues to evolve so should our election system. It is our duty as a democracy to ensure that those eligible to vote, no matter how we define the eligibility, are able to cast their ballots. If we were willing to allow banking, car sales, groceries stores and many other customer based entities to accommodate their customer base to by expanding their hours of operations then so too should our election system.

S.B. No. 5 (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING CHANGES TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS AND OTHER ELECTION LAWS. (GAE) We support this legislation, but have a few concerns. Some of the reporting requirements for local unions who send small amounts of voluntary contributions onto their national unions are a bit onerous. We very much support transparency, and will be happy to work with the committee and it's leadership to see that transparency is achieved without putting local unions, with volunteer treasurers at risk.

H.B. No. 6673 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED PRIVATIZATION CONTRACTS. (GAE) We appreciate the committee raising this bill. Privatization should be the last option considered by the government, by proposing this bill you are taking an important step in keeping the duties of government within government and not out in the for profit-non-profit world. Time after time we are faced with examples of tax payer dollars wasted on wild goose chases know as privatization. Government makes a promise to its citizens of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. This is a good bill and it should pass.

Lastly we oppose **S.B. 727, AN ACT CONCERNING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST UNDER THE CODE OF ETHICS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND STATE EMPLOYEES.**

If the intent of this is to ensure a democracy representative of the people by the people, this bill is not that vehicle. This bill sets the stage for less middle class working citizens and greases the skids for those who are amongst the most wealthy in our state. The Connecticut AFLCIO supports sensible and enforceable conflicts of interest as well as ethic standards when it comes to elected officials. This bill discriminates against working men and women who happened to be employed by the state directly or through one of its contractors, or municipalities.

Corruption is like mold it spreads when light is absent. In this case the light that kills corruption is transparency and participation. We all want a government we can be proud of an that is void of corrupt officials. We achieve this not through increasing the hoops people have go through to participate but by making it easier for regular citizens to participate in. Don't encourage the false promises promoted through this legislation, it may be a good sound bite but in the end we will all get bit.

As always we appreciate the work of this committee and look forward seeing these pieces of legislation we support work their way through the process.

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